

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 NIC-01 /062 R

DRAFTED BY EA/RA:RJMARTENS/LMCNUTT:JG

APPROVED BY EA - MR. GLEYSSTEEN

EA/IMS - MR. INGRAHAM

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R 251435Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T STATE 066814

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:ASEAN, PFOR, MY

SUBJECT: KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 1427

1. IN VIEW OF CURRENT COMMUNIST OFFENSIVES IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA, WE BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY POOR TIME TO CHANGE OUR PUBLIC STANCE ON ASEAN PROPOSAL FOR A SOUTHEAST ASIA NEUTRALITY ZONE. IRRESPECTIVE OF SUBSTANTIVE MERITS(AND REFTEL MAKES SOME GOOD POINTS), ANY APPARENT SHIFT OF LINE WE TAKE WITH ASEAN NATIONS TOWARD GREATER ACCEPTANCE OF NEUTRALITY SCHEME MIGHT WELL BE MISINTERPRETED AS EVIDENCE OF FAILING US RESOLVE.

2. HOWEVER ONCE WE HAVE CLEARER IDEA OF WHERE WE STAND IN INDOCHINA WE WOULD NOT RULE OUT MORE FORTHCOMING

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POSITION ON THIS ISSUE. FOR EXAMPLE EMBASSY IS CORRECT

IN NOTING THAT WE SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM IN COMMENTING FAVORABLY ON PART I OF ASEAN PROPOSAL PROVIDING FOR CONCILIATION OF REGIONAL DIFFERENCES THROUGH GOOD OFFICES.

3. FOR PRESENT, HOWEVER, AS EMBASSY NOTES, GOM (AND OTHER ASEAN STATES) DO NOT BELIEVE SCHEME CAN COME IN EFFECT FOR CONSIDERABLE TIME TO COME. MOREOVER PRESENT POSITION HAS NOT BEEN ESSENTIALLY NEGATIVE BUT HAS RATHER

PLACED EMPHASIS ON SHORT-TERM IMPRACTICABILITY AND ON RELATIONSHIP OF ANY SUCH SCHEME TO SECURE INDEPENDENCE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA NATIONS. STANCES OF SOVIETS AND PRC, WHILE ALSO VAGUE, ARE EASIER TAKEN GIVEN LACK OF BASES IN ANY OF ASEAN COUNTRIES IN CONTRAST TO OUR OWN POSITIONS IN THAILAND AND ESPECIALLY THE PHILIPPINES.

4. ALTHOUGH WE REALIZE ASEAN MINISTERS WILL BE DEALING WITH NEUTRALIZATION PROPOSAL AT FORTHCOMING ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING, WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY PRESSURE BY ASEAN FOR CHANGE IN US STANCE AND BELIEVE MOST ASEAN MEMBERS FIND IT ACCEPTABLE. KISSINGER

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